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Meat prices to

rise

-VEGETABLES CHEAPER

THE price of most meats is expected to rise next week.

The vice-president of the Meat and Allied Trades Federation, Mr R. W. Day, last night predicted most meat ranges would rise between 4½ to 7½ cents a lb.

At the same time, vegetable prices are falling.

Mr Day said graziers were holding back stock in the hope of getting better prices — and this was forcing meat prices up.

At this week's Newmarket sales, butchers had to pay more for carcasses, and they probably would pass this on to the public, he said.

Mr Day said the State Opposition Leader, Mr Holding, was inaccurate when he said that someone was profiting from the drought because stock was being sold cheaply, but Melbourne meat prices remained high.

"In the main, the ridiculously low prices have been for drought-affected stock, not suitable for retail sale," Mr Day said.

Average prices up to last week were: Rump steak, \$1.00 — \$1.10 per lb.; lamb chops, 39c to 45c per lb.; leg of lamb, 34c to 36c per lb.; roasting beef, 59c per lb.

"These prices were not as high as this time last year," Mr Day said.

"The next lamb season and lamb imports from New Zealand could bring the prices down," he said.

The president of the Housewives' Association, Mrs B. G. Kelley, said last night: "The main thing is to keep the prices within bounds."

• The president of the Vegetable Growers' Association, Mr K. Marriott, said last night that vegetable prices had fallen between 50 and 75 per cent from their record level last week.

"Inferior quality"

Mr Marriott said the fall was due to new season's vegetables, interstate competition, inferior quality and buyer resistance.

"Vegetables were expensive, and this tended to turn people to tinned and frozen food," he said.

The high prices were mainly caused by the drought.